Appl. No. 10/783,214
Amdt. dated July 14, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 15, 2008

Atty. Ref. 81710.0266
Customer No. 26021

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An image processing system comprising:

an image scanning device that outputs via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

an image output device that visibly outputs image information input from a remote device;

an information processing device that accepts an input of the scanned image information from the image scanning device and that outputs the image information to the image output device; and

means for connecting the image scanning device, the image output device and the information processing device ~~to the network~~ so that data can be exchanged by a common protocol, <u>wherein the means for connecting connects the image scanning device and the information processing device to the network,</u>

wherein the image output device is <u>physically</u> connected directly only to the image scanning device <u>and the image output device is not physically connected to the image scanning device via the network</u>, and wherein the image output device is not directly <u>physically</u> connected to the information processing device, but is connected to the information processing device via the image scanning device;

wherein the image scanning device comprises:

a port for connecting the image output device;

a port for connecting the information processing device; and

means for controlling to analyze destination information of data input from the ports and to switch connections of the ports in accordance with the destination information.

2. (Currently amended) An image scanning device comprising:

means for scanning an image;

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means for outputting via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning the image of an original document;

a port for connecting an image output device that visibly outputs image information input from a remote device,

wherein the image output device is <u>physically</u> connected directly only to the port of the image scanning device;

a port for connecting an information processing device that accepts an input of the scanned image information from the image scanning device and that outputs the image information to the image output device, and <u>the image output device is not physically connected to the image scanning device via the network,</u> wherein the image output device is not directly <u>physically</u> connected to the port of the information processing device, but is connected to the port of the information processing device via the image scanning device;

a data exchanging protocol that exchange data between the image output device and the information processing device by a common protocol; and

means for controlling to analyze destination information of data input from the ports and to switch connections of the ports in accordance with the destination information.

3. (Original) The image scanning device according to claim 2, wherein the means for controlling comprises:

means for storing the destination information of the image scanning device;

means for determining whether the destination information included in the data input to the port for the image output device is the image scanning device or a device other than the image scanning device; and

means for retrieving the data inside when the destination information is the image scanning device and outputting the data to the port for the information processing device when the destination information is the device other than the image scanning device.

4. (Previously presented) The image scanning device according to claim 2,

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wherein the means for controlling comprises:

means for storing the destination information of the image output device;

means for determining whether the destination information included in the data input to the port for the information processing device is the image scanning device, the image output device or other device; and

means for retrieving the data inside when the destination information is the image scanning device, transmitting the data to the image output device when the destination information is the image output device, and abandoning the data when the destination information is for other devices.

5. (Original) The image scanning device according to claim 4, wherein the means for controlling comprises:

a buffer that temporarily stores the data input to the port for the information processing device; and

means for outputting the data to the port for the image output device when the destination information is the image output device, and after receiving data indicating a fact that the data has been received normally at the port for the image output device, abandoning the data.

6. (Previously presented) The image scanning device according to claim 2,

wherein the means for controlling comprises:

means for storing a status of "stored" or "not stored" by associating the status to the destination information of a device connected to the port for the image output device;

wherein an initial status is the "not stored" status, and when data is output to the port for the image output device and data corresponding to a reception confirmation is input to the port for the image output device within a prescribed period of time, the status changes to the "stored" status.

7. (Original) The image scanning device according to claim 2, wherein the means for controlling comprises:

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means for storing the destination information for permitting scanning of an image and/or outputting of an image or destination information for not permitting the scanning of the image and/or the outputting of the image; and

means for analyzing a transmitter address when an image scanning instruction and/or an image output instruction is input from the port for the information processing device, comparing the transmitter address with the stored destination information and determining whether or not to permit the instructions.

8. (Previously presented) The image scanning device according to claim 2,

wherein the means for controlling comprises means for outputting data to the port for the information processing device, and switching connection status of a port section in accordance with whether or not data corresponding to a reception confirmation is input to the port for the information processing device within a prescribed period of time.

9. (Previously presented) An image processing system comprising:

an image scanning device that outputs via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

an image output device that visibly outputs image information input from a remote device;

an information processing device that accepts an input of the scanned image information from the image scanning device and that outputs the image information to the image output device; and

means for connecting the image scanning device, the image output device and the information processing device to the network so that data can be exchanged;

wherein the image scanning device comprises:

a first port for connecting the image output device;

a second port for connecting the information processing device; and

means for controlling to output scanned image information from the first port via the network to the image output device in a copying process, and when receiving a network printing request from the network through the second port during the

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copying process, to receive and accumulate print data until a means for storing reaches a prescribed accumulation amount, and when the means for storing reaches the prescribed accumulation amount, to transmit to the information processing device, data instructing to interrupt or suppress transmission of the print data.

10. (Currently amended) An image processing system comprising:

an image scanning device that outputs via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

an image output device that visibly outputs image information input from a remote device;

an information processing device that accepts an input of the scanned image information from the image scanning device and that outputs the image information to the image output device; and

means for connecting the image scanning device, the image output device and the information processing device ~~to the network~~ so that data can be exchanged, <u>wherein the means for connecting connects the image scanning device and the information processing device to the network, wherein the image output device is not physically connected to the image scanning device via the network</u>;

wherein the image scanning device comprises:

a first port for connecting the image output device;

a second port for connecting the information processing device; and

means for controlling to output from the first port via the network to the image output device, print data received from the network through the second port in a network printing process, and when a copying instruction is input during the network printing process, to scan an image and to accumulate scanned image data until a means for storing reaches a prescribed accumulation amount, and when the means for storing reaches the prescribed accumulation amount, to stop the scanning, and when available capacity in the means for storing recovers by progress of the network printing process, to restart the scanning, and after an end of the

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network printing process, to output the accumulated scanned image data from the first port via the network to the image output device.

11. (Currently amended) An image processing system comprising:

an image scanning device that outputs via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

an image output device that visibly outputs image information input from a remote device;

an information processing device that accepts an input of the scanned image information from the image scanning device and that outputs the image information to the image output device; and

means for connecting the image scanning device, the image output device and the information processing device ~~to the network~~ so that data can be exchanged, wherein the means for connecting connects the image scanning device and the information processing device to the network, wherein the image output device is not physically connected to the image scanning device via the network,

wherein the image scanning device comprises:

a first port for connecting the image output device;

a second port for connecting the information processing device; and

means for controlling to output from the first port via the network to the image output device, print data received from the network through the second port in a network printing process, and when a copying instruction is input during the network printing process, to scan an image and to accumulate scanned image data until a means for storing reaches a prescribed accumulation amount, and when the means for storing reaches the prescribed accumulation amount, to decrease a scanning speed, and when an available capacity in the means for storing recovers by progress of the network printing process, to increase the scanning speed, and after an end of the network printing process, to output the accumulated scanned image data from the first port via the network to the image output device.

12. (Original) An image scanning device comprising:

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means for outputting via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

a first port for connecting an image output device;

a second port for connecting an information processing device; and

means for controlling to output the scanned image information from the first port via the network to the image output device in a copying process, and when receiving a network printing request from the network through the second port during the copying process, to receive and accumulate print data until a means for storing reaches a prescribed accumulation amount, and when the means for storing reaches the prescribed accumulation amount, to transmit to the information processing device, data instructing to interrupt or suppress transmission of the print data.

13. (Currently amended) An image scanning device comprising:

means for outputting via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

a first port for connecting an image output device;

a second port for connecting an information processing device;

wherein the image output device is physically connected directly only to the image scanning device and the image output device is not physically connected to the image scanning device via the network, and wherein the image output device is not directly physically connected to the information processing device, but is connected to the information processing device via the image scanning device; and

means for controlling to output from the first port via the network to the image output device, print data received from the network through the second port in a network printing process, and when a copying instruction is input during the network printing process, to scan an image and to accumulate scanned image data until a means for storing reaches a prescribed accumulation amount, and when the means for storing reaches the prescribed accumulation amount, to stop the scanning, and when available capacity in the means for storing recovers by progress

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of the network printing process, to restart the scanning, and after an end of the network printing process, to output the accumulated scanned image data from the first port via the network to the image output device.

14. (Original) The image scanning device according to claim 13, further comprising:

an operation unit which includes means for instructing an interrupt copy;

wherein when the interrupt copy is instructed during the network printing process, the means for controlling controls to interrupt the network printing process and to execute a copying process.

15. (Original) The image scanning device according to claim 13, wherein the means for controlling comprises:

means for setting to execute one of the copying process and the network printing process preferentially;

wherein when there is a conflict of the copying process and the network printing process, a process set to be carried out preferentially by the means for setting is executed preferentially.

16. (Currently amended) An image scanning device comprising:

means for outputting via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

a first port for connecting an image output device;

a second port for connecting an information processing device,

wherein the image output device is not physically connected to the image scanning device via the network; and

means for controlling to output from the first port via the network to the image output device, print data received from the network through the second port in a network printing process, and when a copying instruction is input during the network printing process, to scan an image and to accumulate scanned image data until a means for storing reaches a prescribed accumulation amount, and when the means for storing reaches the prescribed accumulation amount, to decrease a

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scanning speed, and when available capacity in the means for storing recovers by progress of the network printing process, to increase the scanning speed, and after an end of the network printing process, to output the accumulated scanned image data from the first port via the network to the image output device.

17. (Original) The image scanning device according to claim 16, further comprising:

an operation unit which includes means for instructing an interrupt copy;

wherein when the interrupt copy is instructed during the network printing process, the means for controlling controls to interrupt the network printing process and to execute a copying process.

18. (Original) The image scanning device according to claim 16, wherein the means for controlling comprises:

means for setting to execute one of the copying process and the network printing process preferentially;

wherein when there is a conflict of the copying process and the network printing process, a process set to be carried out preferentially by the means for setting is executed preferentially.

19. (Original) The image processing system according to claim 1, further comprising a memory.

20. (Currently amended) An image processing system comprising:

an image scanning device that outputs via a network, scanned image information obtained by scanning an image of an original document;

an image output device that visibly outputs image information input from a remote device;

an information processing device that accepts an input of the scanned image information from the image scanning device and that outputs the image information to the image output device; and

a hub that connects the image scanning device, the image output device and the information processing device to the network so that data can be exchanged by a

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common protocol, wherein the image scanning device and the information processing device are connected to the network;

wherein the image scanning device comprises:

a port for connecting the image output device;

a port for connecting the information processing device; and

a controller that analyzes destination information of data input from the ports and switches connections of the ports in accordance with the destination information,

wherein the image output device is physically connected directly only to the image scanning device and the image output device is not physically connected to the image scanning device via the network, and wherein the image output device is not directly physically connected to the information processing device, but is connected to the information processing device via the image scanning device.